

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 1732

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KREISKY, BRUNO), AU
SUBJECT: KREISKY VISIT TO WASHINGTON: AUSTRIAN POLICY AND KREISKY
VIEWS ON NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE

REF: STATE 046505

1. GOA FAVORS NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE IN BROAD SENSE (I.E., IT IS NOT CIEC MEMBER) AS A PRINCIPLE. HOWEVER, IT MUST STUDY FURTHER THE IMPLICATIONS OF VARIOUS LDC PROPOSALS FOR THE AUSTRIAN ECONOMY AND SOCIETY. AT PRESENT CHANCELLOR KREISKY IS OUT IN FRONT OF AUSTRIAN POLITICAL-ECONOMIC ESTABLISHMENT IN THIS AREA.

2. CHANCELLOR'S KEEN INTEREST IN NORTH-SOUTH BRIDGE-BUILDING ARISES FROM COMBINATION OF INFLUENCES: (1) TRANSFER TO INTERNATIONAL SCENE OF CONCEPTS AND TACTICS OF LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS ACQUIRED DURING HIS TRADE UNION EXPERIENCE; (2) POLICIES ESPOUSED BY SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL; (E) HIS PERSONAL AFFINITY (FROM WORLD WAR II DAYS) FOR SCANDINAVIAN APPROACH; (4) DESIRE TO WIN LDC SUPPORT FOR AUSTRIAN INTERESTS (E.G., FILLING UN CITY); AND (5) CRAVING TO BE INVOLVED PERSONALLY IN INTERNATIONAL AREAS WHERE THERE IS ACTION.

3. EXAMPLES OF KREISKY'S PROPOSALS INCLUDE:

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A. OFFER OF VIENNA AS SITE FOR CIEC, AND HIS INTEREST IN DIRECT AUSTRIAN REPRESENTATION THEREIN;
B. INTEREST IN ALIGNING AUSTRIA WITH "LIVERAL GROUP" OF AID DONOR NATIONS PRESSING FOR FASTER PROGRESS IN ESTABLISHING NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER;
C. PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN FAVOR OF "INDEXING", WHICH HE SEES AS A PRINCIPLE OF SOCIAL EQUITY, BUT WHICH HAVE

BEEN TAKEN AS SUPPORT FOR LDC PROPOSALS; AND
D. PROPOSAL TO UTILIZE SURPLUS PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY
IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (A PROBLEM IN AUSTRIAN HEAVY
INDUSTRY) TO PROVIDE MORE CAPITAL GOODS FOR LDCS. WE
HAVE OPPOSED THIS IDEA AS IMPRACTICABLE AND COUNTER-
PRODUCTIVE.

4. SINCE KREISKY'S ACTIVIST--BUT FREQUENTLY VAGUE--VIEWS
ARE LESS THAN FERVENTLY SUPPORTED IN THE MINISTRIES AND
BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC, AUSTRIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE
DIALOGUE IS OFTEN CHARACTERIZED BY AMBIVALENT POSITIONS
WITH A TENDENCY TO FOLLOW THE MAJORITY. IN ADDITION,
AUSTRIA'S RECORD AS AN AID DONOR IS NOT OUTSTANDING:
AUSTRIAN OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN 1975 WAS
ONLY 0.17 PERCENT OF GNP -- LOWEST OF 17 DAC MEMBER COUNTRIES EXCEPT
ITALY. NONETHELESS, BECAUSE OF CHANCELLOR'S INTEREST AND DESIRE
TO BE INVOLVED IN DIALOGUE, HIS WILLINGNESS TO COMMIT
AUSTRIAN ENERGIES (IF NOT RESOURCES), AND CERTAIN
ADVANTAGES OF AUSTRIA'S NEUTRAL POSITION, WE BELIEVE
WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO TRY TO HEAD HIM IN DIRECTION WE
WANT TO TAKE. BUCHANAN

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